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Government-International

U.S. Fears Soviet Attempt to Kidnap Or Kill Nossenko

Now that a ranking staff member of Russia's secret police has asked political asylum in this country, U. S. intelligence authorities fear that Soviet security police in the United States may be under orders to kidnap or kill Red defector Yuri I. Nossenko.

By NICOLAS RIVERO

Yuri Ivanovich Nossenko, a member of the Soviet delegation to the Geneva disarmament conference who defected and requested U.S. asylum last month, seems to be far more important than a regular KGB (Soviet Russia's State Security Committee or secret police) member assigned to spy on his own disarmament mission, or on the Western delegation, or on both.

Nossenko is now in the United States under the "protective custody" of the Central Intelligence Agency and is perhaps the best protected man in this country today.

It is feared by U.S. Intelligence officials that Soviet counter-espionage agents are under orders to kidnap Nossenko if possible and to kill him, if not. If they should succeed in killing him, it would not be the first time they have murdered a Soviet defector in the United States in order to protect their network of more than 1,000 military, scientific and industrial spies in this country. This figure is based on an estimate made recently by FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, who in turn based his estimate on reports made by previous defectors.

In 1941, Gen. Walter Krivitsky, a former Red Army Intelligence chief whose break with Stalin in 1937 and subsequent revelations had caused word-wide sensation, was found murdered in a Washington hotel.

Another case of KGB's special murder unit operations in the United States was the strange "accident" on a U.S. turnpike of Reino Hayhanen, a former KGB lieutenant colonel.

In the spring of 1957 Col. Hayhanen was ordered back to Moscow from a foreign assignment. He suspected he would be liquidated on his return home. Instead of flying to the Soviet Union he went to Paris, where he contacted the American Embassy and asked for asylum.

Rushed to the United States, Hayhanen became a counter-espionage agent for the CIA. He located in New York the studio of Russian master spy Rudolph Ivanovich Abel who was the most important Soviet spy caught in the United States to date. Abel was running a photographer's studio in Brooklyn under the alias of Emil R. Goldfus. It was in that studio that Abel processed secret documents by photographing them and reducing the papers to the size of a pin head—a process called micro-spotting.

The importance that Moscow attached to his work may be judged by the fact that he



irate boss of defector Yuri Nossenko is understandably upset over recent events. Semyon K. Tsarapkin, head of the Soviet delegation to the Geneva disarmament conference, charged that Switzerland permitted "foreign agents" to engineer the disappearance of Nossenko. Nossenko is under wraps in political asylum in Washington.

was exchanged for the American U-2 pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

U.S. officials have refused to release details of the Nossenko defection. He was described as a ranking staff member of the KGB. But the circumstances of his disappearance were left vague. American officials also declined to say how high up Mr. Nossenko was in the KGB apparatus and why he defected.

All these facts may never be published. Often defectors to the West from the Soviet Union are thoughtful people who are fed up with the dreary processes of the police state.

*01A11-03 (Hayhanen)
Pers: Hayhanen, Reino
1944-02 US (Abel)
Pers: Abel, Rudolph
CIA-04 (Gary Powers)
1941-01 US (KGB)
Pers: Krivitsky, Walter
1944-01 US (US)
(Amting Trading Corp)
1944-01 US (US)
(Amting Trading Corp)*

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